

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/689,689

Examiner

Paul A. Chenevert

Applicant(s)

IGARASHI ET AL.

Art Unit

3612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 07OCT04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-4, 6-8, 10-14, 16, 18-20 and 22-24.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 07JUL04.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Dennis C. Rodgers on 03NOV04.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 1, 5, 9, 15, 17, & 21 have been canceled.

Claim 13:

Line 1, "The rear structure of a vehicle body as defined in claim 1," has been changed to

-- A rear structure of a vehicle body provided with right and left rear side frames disposed on right and left sides of the body and extending in the fore-and-aft direction of the body, and crossmembers bridged between the right and left rear side frames;

the crossmembers being approximately an X-shape in plan view and comprising a first crossmember and a second crossmember,

the first crossmember having a front end connected to one of the rear side frames and a rear end connected to the other of the rear side frames, and extending in the rear direction of the body from the front end to the rear end while receding from one of the rear side frames,

the second crossmember having a front end connected to the other of the rear side frames and a rear end connected to one of the rear side frames, and extending in the rear direction of the

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body from the front end to the rear end while receding from the other of the rear side frames and intersecting with the first crossmember to be connected to one of the rear side frames;

wherein at least one of the front ends of the first and second crossmembers and the rear ends of the first and second crossmembers is connected to the rear side frames in vicinity of a structure to be equipped with a suspension; and --

Claim 16:

Line 1, "The rear structure of a vehicle body as defined in claim 15," has been changed to

-- A rear structure of a vehicle body provided with right and left rear side frames disposed on right and left sides of the body and extending in the fore-and-aft direction of the body, and crossmembers bridged between the right and left rear side frames;

the crossmembers being approximately an X-shape in plan view and comprising a first crossmember and a second crossmember,

the first crossmember having a front end connected to one of the rear side frames and a rear end connected to the other of the rear side frames, and extending in the rear direction of the body from the front end to the rear end while receding from one of the rear side frames,

the second crossmember having a front end connected to the other of the rear side frames and a rear end connected to one of the rear side frames, and extending in the rear direction of the body from the front end to the rear end while receding from the other of the rear side frames and intersecting with the first crossmember to be connected to one of the rear side frames;

wherein at least one of the front ends of the first and second crossmembers and the rear ends of the first and second crossmembers is connected to the rear side frames in vicinity of a structure to be equipped with a suspension;

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wherein the intersecting portion comprises a joint into which interior ends of sections of each of the first and second crossmembers are inserted; and --

Claim 18:

Line 1, "The rear structure of a vehicle body as defined in claim 1," has been changed to --
A rear structure of a vehicle body provided with right and left rear side frames disposed on right and left sides of the body and extending in the fore-and-aft direction of the body, and crossmembers bridged between the right and left rear side frames;

the crossmembers being approximately an X-shape in plan view and comprising a first crossmember and a second crossmember,

the first crossmember having a front end connected to one of the rear side frames and a rear end connected to the other of the rear side frames, and extending in the rear direction of the body from the front end to the rear end while receding from one of the rear side frames,

the second crossmember having a front end connected to the other of the rear side frames and a rear end connected to one of the rear side frames, and extending in the rear direction of the body from the front end to the rear end while receding from the other of the rear side frames and intersecting with the first crossmember to be connected to one of the rear side frames;

wherein at least one of the front ends of the first and second crossmembers and the rear ends of the first and second crossmembers is connected to the rear side frames in vicinity of a structure to be equipped with a suspension; and --

Claim 19:

Line 1, "The rear structure of a vehicle body as defined in claim 1," has been changed to

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-- A rear structure of a vehicle body provided with right and left rear side frames disposed on right and left sides of the body and extending in the fore-and-aft direction of the body, and crossmembers bridged between the right and left rear side frames;

the crossmembers being approximately an X-shape in plan view and comprising a first crossmember and a second crossmember,

the first crossmember having a front end connected to one of the rear side frames and a rear end connected to the other of the rear side frames, and extending in the rear direction of the body from the front end to the rear end while receding from one of the rear side frames,

the second crossmember having a front end connected to the other of the rear side frames and a rear end connected to one of the rear side frames, and extending in the rear direction of the body from the front end to the rear end while receding from the other of the rear side frames and intersecting with the first crossmember to be connected to one of the rear side frames;

wherein at least one of the front ends of the first and second crossmembers and the rear ends of the first and second crossmembers is connected to the rear side frames in vicinity of a structure to be equipped with a suspension; and --

4. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: the lead line for 31b in Figure 2 will be extended even more to the center of the pipe (31) to designate the through hole. This change is in conjunction with all other changes made to the drawing in the replacement drawings filed 07OCT04.

In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

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5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art does not show or make obvious Applicant's crossmembers directly connected to a suspension structure, the C-pillar, or the D-pillar of a vehicle frame.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul A. Chenevert whose telephone number is 703-305-0837. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8:30-5:00).


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn D. Dayoan can be reached on 703-308-3102. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Paul A. Chenevert
Examiner
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03NOV04

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D. GLENN DAYOAN 11/8/04
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600